



INSIDE INDIA

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Two CAP Graduation Events Highlight Importance of Public-Private Partnerships in Vocational Education

USAID/India Mission Director George Deikun recently attended two graduation ceremonies of the very successful USAID supported Workforce Development Initiative, a public private partnership with some of India's largest corporations and the CAP Foundation. The program mobilizes poor and marginally educated youth, provides them with training in skills demanded by industry (computers, spoken English, communication skills, customer relations, teamwork, etc), and links them with jobs, addressing a critical gap between their existing skills and those skills demanded by India's booming economy. One of the program's great strengths is that it leverages the resources of the private sector to not only provide support for training but also to provide program graduates with meaningful employment. A total of more than 16,00 young people across the USAID funded regions of Delhi, Maharastra, and Jharkhand have been trained under the program, with 6,000 alone trained in the Delhi area. Currently, there are about 15 corporate/private sector partners in the initiative, including the Tatas, Reliance, Microsoft, and Moserbaer.



USAID/India Mission Director George Deikun, Microsoft USA, Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Nancy Anderson, and student at awards ceremony in Delhi. *Photo/CAP Foundation*

The two recent events, one in Delhi and one in Greater Noida, showcased the private sector commitment that has made this program so successful. Representatives from Moser Baer, one of India's leading technology companies and a partner in the training program were at the Noida event last month, and Microsoft USA, Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Nancy Anderson was at the November 4 event in Delhi. Noting how well trained and prepared the program youth are, Moser Bear announced that it will extend support for a new phase of the program. Emphasizing the great value of a program, Microsoft announced that it would double its support to the program with a \$400,000 grant to train another 4,800 participants.

Expanding Contraceptive Choices for Couples in Jharkhand

Recognizing the need to expand contraceptive choices to address the unmet need for family planning in Jharkhand state, the Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) recently negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USAID partner, the Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH), Georgetown University, to roll-out of the Standard Days Method® (SDM) of family planning, a fertility-awareness method (FAM) of family planning. Encouraged by the results of joint USAID supported IRH and GoJ pilot initiatives, the GoJ has committed \$211,000 towards training, supplies, and capacity building and has agreed to include this contraceptive method in basket of contraceptive choices available in their state family planning

programs. IRH will provide technical support, policy and advocacy related activities, monitoring and evaluation, and research support.

Using CycleBeads, a color-coded string of beads, the scientifically tested, natural, and easy to use SDM allows women to track their cycles and determine on a daily basis whether the chances of pregnancy are likely or not. FAM such as the SDM have helped address the unmet need for family planning, which, in Jharkhand, is considerable: the total fertility rate there increased from 2.8 in 1998 to 3.3 in 2006; the unmet need for spacing is significant at 11.6%; and only 35.7% of women of reproductive age use any family planning method.



Learning how to use CycleBeads in Jharkhand. Photo/USAID

Program Profile

A Holistic Approach to HIV Care and Treatment

The USAID/India supported Snehadaan Center in Bangalore is a unique facility that takes a holistic approach to address the needs of People Living with HIV (PLHIV). Snehadaan is run by the Sneha Charitable Trust that was established in 1997 by the Camillian Health Mission in India as an exclusive care center for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). The Center runs a 52 bed facility for the care of PLHA, with a well-established continuum care program after the discharge of the patient. The center also provides palliative care of AIDS patients, as well as providing support and training of the family members to care for their loved ones who are sick. There is a special focus on hospice care in the program with at least 10 beds used for the end of life care. The center admits almost 400 patients per year, of which almost one-quarter come for end of life care and succumb to their illness. Sneha operates three additional centers in India that care for almost 200 PLHA.

Beginning last year, Sneha initiated a program that focuses on the needs of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) whose parents are HIV positive, have AIDS, or have died as a result of HIV/AIDS. Most of the children themselves are HIV positive. None of the existing care models seemed suitable to address the comprehensive developmental needs of these children, who are either neglected or compromised when they are in the community, with or without their families. The Snehadaan Center is developing an alternative model for the overall development of the OVCs that incorporates all the components needed for the development of a child, with a vision for their future. This approach equips the children with standardized education and vocational skills that are in demand to ensure social security through a healthy and protective environment and to ultimately increase their self esteem and self reliance. The Snehadaan Center currently assists 25 children, of whom 20 are HIV positive and four are currently on *anti-retroviral treatment* at the nearby Government hospital. In all, Sneha reaches about 300 OVCs through its four community centers.